

NEWARK  
PUBLIC  
INFORMATION  
OFFICE



City Hall, 920 Broad Street, Room 214  
Newark, New Jersey 07102  
(201) 733-8004  
Sharpe James, Mayor  
Pamela E. Goldstein, Director

May 26, 1998

Ms. Rasheeda S. Sampson-Jefferson  
Newark Community School of the Arts  
89 Lincoln Park  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Ms. Sampson-Jefferson:

Thank you so very much for your long and informative letter. I was so pleased to learn of your father's role in the liberation of the Nazi death camps, and the fact that he resides in the City of Newark. Several years ago, the City of Newark held a Holocaust memorial in which we honored local veterans who were members of the black battalions that liberated the death camps. At that time we wrote to every local veterans' organization in Newark asking their help in identifying these individuals. We were pleased to find Walter Woodson, a Newark resident and one of the liberators of Buchenwald, whom we honored.

Regretfully, we did not know about your father, or certainly we would have included him in this program. Hopefully, you will provide me with some documentation of his role in the liberation effort, and we will be able to pay tribute next year to another Newark resident, who was part of the liberation.

Unfortunately, as you so eloquently stated in your letter, so many of these courageous soldiers returned to America only to be greeted by the same racism and contempt as the hapless victims of the concentration camps. And, more than 50 years later, we have yet to erase racism and bigotry in our own country. Dr. Leon Bass, a retired educator from Philadelphia and African-American liberator of Buchenwald, has spent years delivering this message at student assemblies and Holocaust Commemorations across this country. We were fortunate enough to have him speak at two of our programs.

Ms. Rasheeda S. Sampson-Jefferson

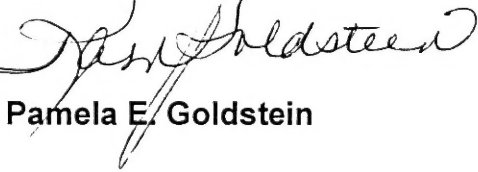
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Pleased be assured that your father's heroic deeds have not been forgotten. However, now that I know about him and how to reach him, I know that Mayor Sharpe James and the City's Holocaust Commemorative Committee will make sure that his service to our country and his role in the liberation of the Nazi death camps will be recognized.

Again, I thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pamela E. Goldstein". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,". The signature is somewhat stylized, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Pamela E. Goldstein